

## Slow TV show hits it big in Bohemia.

Live TV broadcasting online with Axis network cameras is a success in Czech Republic.



**Organization:**  
TAKTIQ Communications  
s.r.o. (Slow TV)

**Location:**  
Czech Republic

**Industry segment:**  
Commercial

**Application:**  
Broadcasting, live  
streaming

**Axis partner:**  
NetRex s.r.o.

### Mission

TAKTIQ Communications decided to launch a so-called slow TV on-line broadcasting in Czech Republic, which consists of long-playing live broadcasts from interesting places. The Slow TV project had attractive locations prepared and arranged in cooperation with MAFRA media house; however, the key to success was provision of reliable and affordable video streaming and a reasonable selection of quality cameras with various parameters. Contrary to a pure security installation, Slow TV always requires the best available image quality and live transmission with minimum outages, as the videos are being watched by many people.

### Solution

Slow TV broadcasting is technologically provided by NetRex experts. The common denominator of the installation is the usage of Axis network cameras and CamStreamer software (included in the offering of ACAP applications from Axis). Slow TV channel runs under the heading of MAFRA's Playtvak.cz Internet television, which uses its own player for distribution.

The Axis camera in the "Slow TV" installation broadcasts stream over the CamStreamer application directly to Playtvak.cz servers. At the same time, the camera is logged in a cloud video platform NetRex that enables online camera setting adjustments, functionality check and downloading records from the edge storage (SD card). Connectivity is mostly provided by local providers or a specially modified router with an O2 4G LTE card.

### Result

The viewer success of the project has surpassed expectations. Despite complications connected with pioneering an enterprise in the field of Czech Internet, an average rating of 800,000 views per month was achieved, and in October 2015 the total number of views surpassed 3 million. In the 15 implemented installations to date, the quality of the Axis cameras was proven to be fully sufficient for TV broadcasting, as was the implementation of the CamStreamer application.

**“Thanks to viable cooperation of Axis with its partner NetRex, the extraordinary employment of NetRex engineers and a good combination of quality hardware and software, we were able to introduce a television broadcast that was not present in the Czech Republic before now – and the success of Slow TV proves that similar IP video-based projects have a future.”**

**Ivan Sobička, general editor of the Slow TV project at TAKTIQ Communications.**

## Planespotting – the greatest showstopper of Slow TV

Slow TV's editors started broadcasting several topics with both short- and long-term streams, whose presentation to the public was made easier thanks to connection with the iDnes.cz news server. The greatest hit from the very beginning was the show Planespotting, which combines an exceptionally successful view of the runway of Václav Havel Airport in Prague together with an integrated FlightRadar application and the sound of communication from the control tower. This gave birth to a service that is unique in global scale, which has also found many spectators abroad, and the total number of views in October 2015 has surpassed 2 million. The NetRex team had to install the camera on a less than optimal spot on the roof of a car park, where it is subject to severe weather and strong winds, and its task is to capture operations on a runway that is several hundred meters away. These parameters were satisfied with AXIS Q6115-E Network Camera, featuring 30x zoom and the Speed Dry feature, which removes rain-drops. The picture in original quality up to 1080p is only limited by connection over the 4G LTE network and Playtvak.cz player, which distributes the video to the public. Planespotting show's specialty is also use of the specially modified CamStreamer in-camera application, which supplements the picture with the sound of communication from the control tower obtained from an online source.

## Another topic, another camera

Besides monitoring planes, Slow TV editors also initiated the creation of many more shows in the "slow TV" format – playing cats accompanied with retro music, the several-hour microscopic fight of white blood cells with bacteria, a video quiz with mystery landscapes for geocachers, and many more. Each of the ideas required its own technological solution and specific choice of a camera. It is challenging to precisely tune the stream for the given scene, with the given camera and dependence on the connection possibilities and parameters of Playtvak.cz player. For example, AXIS Q1932-E Network Thermal Camera was deployed at the Old Town Square in the middle of the hot summer; and a very

popular stream of a greasing tram in Prague used AXIS Q3505-VE with the participation of Data Rail Czech. In this case, it was again a globally unique combination of an atypical tram-car with continuous live video broadcast from the streets of Prague. In a show named Live Crime Story, which involved monitoring six writers creating a detective novel, NetRex also used the AXIS V5915, which is intended for internal television broadcasting. The common element of all installations is the CamStreamer ACAP application and the NetRex cloud platform, which enables creating records and editing. It is also possible to remotely adjust camera settings and check its functionality through the NetRex platform, which is a necessity for most Slow TV installations.

## Network cameras can even "handle" TV

After three month of Slow TV's operation it turns out that this format, and video streaming in general, has the viewers' favor and a future in the Czech Republic. Camera quality is no longer the main obstacle, as contemporary commercially available IP cameras are able to deliver HDTV or even 4K-quality image, and even provide interesting attractive functions, such as IR supplementary lighting at night, WDR or functions such as Axis' Lightfinder color night vision. The Slow TV team has more ambitious ideas, with expected viewer success, such as a camera located on a train, plane or in the wild. The greatest limitation thus far is insufficient coverage of the 4G LTE network or other broadband Internet connections, and operational-administrative obstacles connected with the provision of a public stream. Other complications may arise at mass distribution of video to many different devices, if the player used is other than YouTube or another global video service. However, thanks to easy-to-use applications like CamStreamer and a wide selection of IP cameras, the whole process will be streamlined in the future. Therefore, it is very likely that shows like Slow TV will become a regular part of the offer on the global media market.

**Watch SlowTV now!** <http://slowtv.playtvak.cz/>



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